

Message Text

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64

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SUBJ CANADA STUDIES PURCHASE OF F-16 AIRCRAFT

1. LOCAL FRENCH AND ENGLISH PRESS ON JUNE 16 CARRIED NEWS ITEMS ENTITLED (IN ENGLISH VERSION) "PLANES NEEDED - CANADA STUDYING AIRCRAFT SALE OF CENTURY." ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLES, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE TRYING TO "DETERMINE WHETHER THE FINANCIAL SAVINGS TO BE GAINED BY JOINING OTHER COUNTRIES IN BUYING A US FIGHTER OUTWEIGH THE INADEQUACIES OF THE AIRCRAFT."

2. ARTICLES REVIEW IMPORTANCE OF RECENT F-16 SALES IN EUROPE AND PRESSURES UPON CANADA TO REPLACE ITS FIGHTER AIRCRAFT. HOWEVER, THEY ALSO POINT OUT THAT "THE ALL-PURPOSE AIRCRAFT CANADIANS WOULD LIKE TO FILL THE ROLE OF AIR DEFENSE AND TROOP SUPPORT WOULD BE A FAST, TWO-SEAT, TWIN-ENGINED MACHINE OF HIGH RANGE TO COVER THE VAST CANADIAN DISTANCES." APPARENTLY, CANADIAN OFFICIALS ARE CONSIDERING THE F-14 GRUMMAN TOM CAT, THE F-15 MACDONNELL DOUGLAS EAGLE, THE F-16, THE F-18 AND POSSIBLY THE BRITISH-WEST GERMAN-ITALIAN MULTI-ROLE COMBAT AIRCRAFT.

3. ARTICLES CONCLUDE BY SAYING "DECISION-MAKING ON A NEW AIRCRAFT IS WRAPPED UP IN THE CURRENT DEFENCE STRUCTURE REVIEW AND THE QUESTION OF CANADIAN ROLE IN NATO," AND BY BRIEFLY DESCRIBING THAT REVIEW.

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PORTER

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Message Attributes

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